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various ways, through the whole town. A single case of Fever, from the focus of a dirty hovel, may chance to multiply into a malignant epidemic. The Institution wishes to arrest it in the earliest part of its progress, to crush the head of the serpent, before it gathers all its venomous malignancy, before it propagates its likeness, before it creeps from its low abode, into the chambers of the middling and higher orders, where, in general, it darts its mortal poison.

It has been said that Fever, among the poor, is seldom fatal, that nature is generally the best physician, and that she performs the cure, in spite of the drugs and the Doctors. But the poor, as well as the rich must, and will, have Doctors of one kind or other. They will become subjects of a bad practice, if they be not, by professional humanity, made subjects of a good plan of treatment. They will be obliged to drink spirits out of a naggin, if they do not get proper medicine out of a phial. Nature will be always more counteracted by the prejudices of the vulgar, than under the management of a regular Physician, who knows himself to be but Nature's servant and interpreter. It appears certain that the advice and authority of men who unite knowledge to humanity, and zeal with activity, have gradually, and imperceptibly, produced the best effects in changing the regimen usually adopted by the poor, in cases of Fever. Their experience of cold, as one of the greatest evils, had probably led to the prejudice, that heat, both external and internal must be the sovereign remedy, and hence they recurred, in such complaints, at the very first, to ardent spirits through choice, and, at the last, to cold water through necessity.

Medicines are supplied to the poor in the Dispensary-department of the Institution; and the sick poor, who cannot be removed, are visited by either physician or surgeon at their own abodes. All subscribers of one guinea in the year, have a power of recommending to the Hospital and the Dispensary.

Every large town, in particular every manufacturing town, and Bel-

fast has, of late years, become of that number, may be said to be encircled with a margin of misery. Often, the more prosperous, and gay, and sparkling things appear in the interior of such towns, the broader and darker is this border of wretchedness which surrounds them. The pressure of want, in a certain degree, may be allotted to a large portion of every society, as the most effectual stimulus and incitement to labour, and industry; but there is an extreme degree of want and misery, which precludes all ability to labour, begets a torpid inactivity, and finishes, by generating pestilential disorders. It becomes, therefore, the duty, the interest and the sacred obligation of the more wealthy part of the Community to guard their fellow-citizens, themselves and their families, from the ravages of malignant contagions. The most useful part of the Police, in a great town, is that which respects the health of the inhabitants, and it is often a department the most shamefully neglected.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,
H^{AVING} understood that freedom is allowed in your press, I wish to offer the following remarks to my fellow-islanders, through the medium of your Magazine.

AN ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.

Countrymen,

As the present time seems to be awfully important, whether we take a view of the nations at large, or of those kingdoms with whose prosperity our own welfare is so intimately connected, it would appear to be our duty, in our respective stations, to remove the grievances we now lie under, as far as in our power, by an examination of our past conduct, wherein we may view the causes of our present distress. If we take a view of the rise and progress of the French war, and impartially consider what were the motives by which we were influenced to carry on that dreadful and destructive contest, I am confident we will find it was rather from pride and ambition, than from a benevolent love to the human race.—The present exorbitant prices of many

of the necessities of life, are certainly the effects of our former conduct. It appears, under the present existing circumstances, that the inhabitants of Ireland, in their relative situations, will be injured. The failure of the last crop, not only of flax, but also of corn, is seen and felt by all, and its effects, at a few months distance, will certainly be worse. Many thousands of men and women will be idle for want of materials to work upon, if a foreign supply be not speedily procured. The scarcity of flax, notwithstanding the encouragement given by Government, in erecting machines for converting this valuable commodity into ropes, for the use of the Navy, is a serious grievance under which the peasantry of this kingdom at present labour. Another public grievance is the dearth and scarcity of timber, whereby all repairs and improvements in building are greatly retarded, and without a speedy supply must in a great measure be suspended altogether. While the present war continues we can expect no flaxseed in the ensuing spring; and how the poor industrious inhabitants of Ireland will be able to pay their rents, tythes, and taxes, is a matter of serious consideration. Another effect of the war is scarcity of gold. For several years past the blood and treasure of these kingdoms have been wasting like snow on a rock, beneath the meridian sun. How many millions of money have been spent in subsidizing the different Powers of Europe, which have proved in a great measure abortive of restoring peace and harmony to Europe! How much has been also spent in fitting out expeditions, which have often failed as to their intention, notwithstanding the superior skill and conduct of their leaders. How many thousands of lives have been lost in these enterprises, spreading calamity and distress over many a domestic circle. When we consider how many strenuous efforts we have made towards the reduction of the French Ruler, not sparing our blood and treasure, nor even our character; and at the same time observe how ineffectual all these endeavours have been, it becomes us to apply to the only remedy, *peace*.

If we duly weigh the foregoing considerations, with many more not mentioned, I presume it will appear to be

our duty, in our several stations, whether high or low, from the peasant to the rulers of counties and districts, to petition the Parliament to procure for us the blessings of peace. We are informed by the sacred penman, that an era speedily will arrive, when nation shall not rise up against nation, nor learn the cursed art of war; when they shall beat their swords into plough shares, and their spears into pruning-hooks. We are also informed, that blessed are the peace-makers, for they shall be called the children of God.

Dec. 12, 1808.

B. A.

To the Editor of the Belfast Magazine.

SIR,
 PERMIT me to add a few concise remarks (from the works of a well-known author) to those of your ingenious Correspondent, who signs himself "A Friend," in your valuable Magazine for last month, on the subject of "Duelling;" which, as a punishment, is absurd; because, it is an equal chance whether the punishment fall upon the offender, or the person offended. Nor is it much better as a reparation; it being difficult to explain in what the satisfaction consists, or how it tends to undo the injury, or to afford a compensation for the damage already sustained.

"Murder is forbidden, and wherever human life is deliberately taken away, otherwise than by public authority, there is murder. If unauthorized laws of honour be allowed to create exceptions to divine prohibitions, there is an end to all morality, as founded on the will of the Deity, and the obligation of every duty may at one time or other be discharged by the caprice and fluctuations of fashion. But a sense of shame is so much torture, and no relief presents itself otherwise than by an attempt upon the life of our adversary." What then? the distresses which men suffer by the want of money is oftentimes extreme, and no resource can be discovered but that of removing the life, which stands between the distressed person and his inheritance.

"The motive in this case is as urgent, and the means much the same as in the former, yet this case finds no advocate.